

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7568

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINT ELAB

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AFL-CIO LEADERS VISIT

ARA/LA/MRSD O'GRADY PASS TO DOHERTY AND MCLELLAN

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT

REF: STATE 046191

1. WHILE MOST PRESS NOTICE OF SUBJECT VISIT HAS GENERALLY BEEN CONFINED TO NAMES, SKETCHY BACKGROUND, TIME (AND POST-PONEMENT) OF VISIT, TWO ARTICLES MERIT SPECIAL NOTE.

2. MARCH 8 COLUMN OF ULTRA-RIGHT-WRINGER PABLO RODRIGUEZ CREZ IN LEADING CIRCULATION "TERCERA" NOTED THAT DELEGATION OF AFL-CIO "AN ORGANIZATION OF MILLIONS -- MOST OF WHOM AND ESPECIALLY MR GLEASON AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ORIT, MR MACLELLAN, ARE PART OF THE KENNEDY 'STAFF.' THIS ORGANIZATION (NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE IS REFERRING TO THE AFL-CIO OR ORIT) MAINTAINS A PERMANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE WITH CUT IN EXILE, TO FINANCE THEIR (APPARENTLY CUT'S) HEADQUARTERS IN CUERNAVACA, MEXICO UNDER THE PROTECTION AND BENEDICTION OF ETCHEVERRIA. IN ADDITION, THE ICFTU, WHICH CONTROLS FIET, WILL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS

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SEND THE (FIET) GENERAL SECRETARY ELMER FOSTER WITH MONEY

FOR THE INTERNAL RESISTANCE TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ALL OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH AN EX-POLITICIAN (UN POLITICO EN RECESO -- THE IMPLICATION IS EDUARDO FREI) THROUGH ARTHUR NIXON."

3. GOC OFFICIAL LINE "CRONISTA" MARCH 6 CARRIED ARTICLE WITH INFORMATION THAT ICFTU HAD FINANCED "CUT IN EXILE" ACTIVITIES IN AMOUNT OF 193 THOUSAND DOLLARS LAST YEAR WITH LARGER BUDGET PROGRAMMED FOR NEXT YEAR. INFORMATION WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A RELEASE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS WHICH IN TURN GAVE SOURCE AS AFL-CIO DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ARTICLE CONTINUES ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT OF SCHEDULED AFL-CIO LEADERS VISIT AND STATES THAT MINISTRY DID NOT MAKE CLEAR IF VISIT HAD BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE "THEY APPEAR TO BE FINANCING 'CUT IN EXILE' ACTIVITIES." THE IMPLICATION IS LEFT THAT THE AFL-CIO WAS FOUND TO HAVE FINANCED CUT ACTIVITIES. COMMENT: RODRIQUEZ GREZ HAS LONG HISTORY OF SUPPORT FOR EXTREME RIGHT-WING CAUSES. RIDICULOUS, UNFOUNDED CHARGES SUCH AS THESE HAVE OVER PERIOD OF TIME DAMAGED HIS CREDIBILITY. HE IS, HOWEVER, A WIDELY READ COLUMNIST OF CHILE'S LEADING CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER.

4. "CRONISTA" IMPLICATION THAT AFL-CIO IS CONNECTED WITH "CUT IN EXILE" ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH DESIGN OR APPALLING IGNORANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR SCENE. FOR WHATEVER THE REASON, WE DO NOT FEEL THE ARTICLES REPRESENT HIGH LEVEL GOC OPINION. GOC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT VISITORS WILL BE GIVEN ALL FREEDOM THEY WANT TO VISIT "WHERE AND WITH WHOM THEY CHOSE." GOC INTEREST IN SUBJECT VISIT AT THIS TIME IS INTENSE. POPPER

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